[English]

Setting up of Agriculture Drainage in CWC

1342. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate division of Agricultural drainage in the Central Water Commission for controlling the salinity and water logging;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said division is proposed to be manned by Agricultural Engineers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is already one Directorate functioning in Central Water Commission namely, Irrigated Area Drainage Directorate with the following functions :

* To prepare and update report on present status of water-logging, salinity and alkalinity, covering drainage works undertaken in the command.
* Technical scrutiny of drainage project reports and provide technical support as necessary.
* Technical scrutiny of research projects received through Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (INCID) to be funded by Ministry of Water Resources.
* Secretariat works of INCID special committee on drainage.
* Coordination works of R&D studies in regard to drainage under externally aided programmes.
* Investigation of water logged and salinity affected areas selectively subject to fund availability.
* Preparation of guideline for drainage works.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

Transport facilities through Bangladesh

1343. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Ministry of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to facilitate transportation and communication through Bangladesh to connect North-Eastern States to the mainland of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Bangladesh thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to materialise this long standing demand of the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). The question of transit facilities through Bangladesh to provide transportation link between the North-Eastern States of India and the mainland has been raised on many occasions with the Government of Bangladesh. The subject remains under the consideration of the two Governments.

Shortage of Funds and Manpower for Army Hospitals

1344. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army hospitals are facing shortage of funds and manpower, especially at Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre in Kirkee;

(b) if so, the details of the other difficulties being faced by the Centre; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide standard care to critically ill patients in Army hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c). The Armed Forces personnel are treated in various Armed Forces Hospitals. The Armed Forces Hospitals are given adequate funds from the budget grant. Army Medical Corps has manpower shortage of less than 10% which is considered normal.

2.1 The Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee is a registered society and looks after the paraplegic ex-Servicemen who have been invalidated from service. This Centre is autonomous in its functioning and has its own corpus of funds. The Kendriya Sainik Board also provides annual financial assistance for its maintenance and the up-keep of the inmates. During the last three years the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee has been given following financial assistance by the Kendriya Sainik Board :

Year	Amount
1994-95	Rs. 12,73,900/-
1995-96	Rs. 12,60,162/-
1996-97	Rs. 15,96,565/-

2.2 At present, the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Pune, has 75 inmates, with a staff of 53 employees including 19 Attendants, 1 Medical Superintendent, 2 Physiotherapists and 2 Nursing Assistants.